

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1684
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2015
Restricted Visas
Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has removed Iran from the list of countries put under the restricted visa category;
- (b) if so, the details along with the reasons behind the said move; and
- (c) the names of other countries placed under the restricted visa category by India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) In the meeting between the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the President of Iran, H.E. Mr. Hassan Rouhani, in Ufa, Russia on July 9, 2015, it was decided to enhance opportunities for trade and people-to-people contacts between the two countries. In line with this approach, the authorities concerned have updated the visa policy for Iranian nationals.

Visas are issued for different durations to applicants from various countries as per the judgment of the consular officer in our Missions/Posts abroad, who exercises such judgment within the framework of the provisions of the Visa Manual. As part of this process, various factors are taken into consideration. Our visa policy is regularly reviewed to take into account developments relating to various countries from time to time.